

Appl. No. 10/661,130
Reply to Office action of 08/05/2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the above amendment, and of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-14, 18-26, and 28-35 are pending in this case. Claims 2, 18, 28, 30, 32, and 33 are amended herein and claims 1, 15-17, and 27 are cancelled herein.

Claims 24-26 stand allowed.

The Examiner objected to claims 2-14, 18-23, and 28-31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 18, 28, and 30 are rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their base claim. There were no intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance of claims 2, 18, 28, 30 and the claims dependent thereon.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 15-17, 27 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyama et al. (U.S. 2002/0122199 A1; hereinafter, "Koyama") in view of Chau et al. (U.S. Patent 5,625,217; hereinafter, "Chau"). Claims 1, 15-17, and 27 are cancelled. Claims 32-34 now ultimately depend from claim 28 and are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed above relative to claim 28.

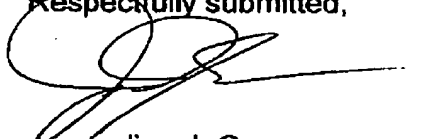
The Examiner rejected claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyama (in view of Chau) as applied to claim 33 above, and further in view of Wakabayashi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,483,151 B2; hereinafter "Wakabayashi"). Claim 35 now ultimately depends from claim 28 and is believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed above relative to claim 28.

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The other references cited by the Examiner have been reviewed, but are not felt to come within the scope of the claims as amended.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 2-14, 18-26, and 28-35. If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

Respectfully submitted,



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